

leaving only one or two little pockets of Germans to be mopped up later.

OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS OF DAY'S FIGHTING

LONDON, May 9.—Following are the official reports on the fighting in France and Flanders:

BRITISH (NIGHT).—At the close of the fighting this morning in the Cloyse-Vormeseele sector the French and British positions on this front were completely reestablished.

Following upon hostile artillery activity already reported, the enemy launched two local attacks early this morning in the neighborhood of Albert and Bouscourt. In the latter locality the enemy's attack was broken up by our fire and machine gun fire and failed to reach our trenches.

At Albert, after suffering heavy casualties from our fire, the enemy succeeded in effecting a lodgment in our advanced position on a front of about 150 yards.

On the remainder of the British front there is nothing to report beyond artillery activity on both sides in the different sectors.

BRITISH (DAY).—Successful counter attacks launched by British and French troops yesterday in La Cloyse-Vormeseele sector drove the enemy from the portions of the allied front line in which he had gained a footing during the morning and reestablished the positions originally held by us. We captured several prisoners.

The enemy again attacked north of Bouscourt this morning and succeeded in pressing back our line slightly at one point, where the fighting continued.

Troops of two German divisions took part in the enemy's attack yesterday morning. Heavy casualties were inflicted on them by our artillery fire, as well as in infantry fighting, both during the attack and in the subsequent counter attack.

Local fighting took place also yesterday at Bucquoy. In the course of which we captured thirty prisoners. During the night further progress was made by us between the Somme and the Ancre. Our new positions in this sector were improved. Several prisoners were taken by us.

Hostile raids were repulsed in the neighborhood of Lens and Merris. The enemy's artillery developed considerable activity during the night in the Albert sector.

FRENCH (NIGHT).—There was marked activity by both armies on the Halles-Montdidier front.

FRENCH (DAY).—Spirited artillery fighting occurred last night north and south of the Aisne.

German patrol attempting to approach our line in the neighborhood of Campelle St. Aignan were repulsed.

GERMAN (DAY).—During the repulse of English advances on the southern bank of the Lys, near Bucquoy, and south of Albert, we took a number of prisoners. During yesterday's unsuccessful night attack by Australian troops on the Corbie-Bray road forty-five prisoners, including four officers, remained in our hands.

North of the Luce and on the western bank of the Aisne the artillery battle continues to be lively. On the eastern front there were successful reconnoitering advances at several points.

The enemy has lost thirty-seven airplanes in the last few days in aerial fighting and by fire from our anti-aircraft guns.

BRITISH DOWN 22 PLANES.

Ten of Bombs Dropped on Douai and Maroing.

LONDON, May 9.—The official statement relative to aerial operations issued by the War Office to-night says:

"Strenuous fighting took place throughout the day, 22 hostile machines being driven down, 7 were compelled to alight out of control, and 1 was shot down by machine gun fire from the ground. Seven of our machines are missing.

Owing to the mist, only a few of our airplanes were able to go out after dark. A ton of bombs, however, was dropped on railway stations at Douai and Maroing. All the machines returned."

**NEUTRAL SEES ONLY
BLUFF IN PEACE TALK**

Norwegian Editor Believes
Germany Depends on Sword.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times.

CHRISTIANIA, May 9.—Commenting upon the German peace offensive, the foreign editor of the *Aftenposten* says that the German demagogue of a moment is in true conformity with Berlin of the past, alternately operating the bluffs and the sword.

In the opinion of this man the Brest-Litovsk peace is the most colossal piece of deception in history. He is clearly conscious of the impossibility of peace by understanding by the Americans, the latter possessing, in his opinion, too great a portion of Anglo-Saxon good sense of realities to allow themselves to be duped by the insinuating phrases of diplomacy.

Broadly judging the position of the Entente peace question, the editor of the *Aftenposten* says that one ought to bear in mind that Germany by her political maneuvers has diverted herself of every shred of confidence, and as her military maneuvers she has created international hatred for herself.

Therefore, he says, it is no more phrase when President Wilson and the other Entente leaders say that it is less to conclude peace with the present lords of Berlin. He expresses the conviction, based upon the painful experience, that these lords or perhaps the mightier behind them have not dropped a syllable from the original programme of warfare to the end.

COLYN DENIES PEACE YARN.

Dutch Financier Repudiates Report He Is German Agent.

AMSTERDAM, May 9.—On his return from England, former Minister of War Colyn stated to the *Rechtspraak* that he was asked as to rumors that he went there in connection with a reported peace mission, that his business in England was in the interests of an oil company of which he is manager.

Regarding the coupling of his name with peace rumors, he said he was in entire accord with what Foreign Secretary Balfour said in Parliament Monday when he stated that there was no representative of a neutral nation in England for the purpose of making suggestions of peace negotiations.

PEACE PARLEY AT KIEV.

Russia Accepts German Proposal for Ukraine Meeting There.

LONDON, May 9.—An official Russian wireless despatch says that M. Tchitchinev, Bolshevik Foreign Minister, has agreed the German Government at Kiev that the Russian Government accept the proposal of Germany concerning peace negotiations with Ukraine at Kiev.

The conditions include unhindered facilities for Russian experts to cross the frontier at Kursk and the Russians to have a direct wire to Moscow.

BRITAIN MUST RAISE OUTPUT OF TONNAGE

Now Falling Far Short of
Minimum Planned by the
Admiralty.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times.

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LONDON, May 9.—Out of a total of 1,600,000 tons of new shipping stated by the Admiralty as the desirable minimum there have been produced in the first four months of the year, says the *Times*, just 424,000 tons, leaving 1,176,000 tons to be built in the remaining months of the year.

It is pointed out that the repair of damaged vessels was then occupying more men and more highly skilled men than new merchant ship building.

The British tonnage losses in April are not yet available, but it was officially stated Tuesday that the sinkings of submarines are steadily increasing, while the tonnage of ships being lost is steadily decreasing.

If the losses in April were 20 per cent. less than the monthly average in the first quarter they would still be considerably over the tonnage output for the month.

It is obvious that the new shipbuilding programme is not meeting the submarine problem satisfactorily.

A high naval authority to-day, commenting upon a speech by Admiral Sims, in which he spoke of the increased destruction of submarines, said his optimism was justified by the fact that with the fine weather which is coming now the British can bring their anti-submarine devices into fuller play.

As the tonnage of ships being lost is steadily decreasing, it is thought here that perhaps the British figures did not include the United States.

The steady increase in American output has been gratifying to shipbuilding officials. Beginning with 79,541 tons in January the production increased to 100,700 tons in February, 146,700 in March, when delays in material were encountered, and 240,000 tons in April.

AMERICA NOT INCLUDED.

Officials Say Ships Built Here Must Have Been Omitted.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Officials here were unable to-day to reconcile the British announcement of tonnage built in allied countries during the first quarter of 1918, if the United States was meant to be included, with the output of American yards amounting to 346,941 tons in that period.

Yards in the United Kingdom were said to have turned out 320,280 tons, but inasmuch as the total of all allied countries was given as tons 544,227, it was thought here that perhaps the British figures did not include the United States.

The steady increase in American output has been gratifying to shipbuilding officials. Beginning with 79,541 tons in January the production increased to 100,700 tons in February, 146,700 in March, when delays in material were encountered, and 240,000 tons in April.

APRIL DECREASE LARGE.

Shipyards Tied Up in Making Repairs to Merchants.

LONDON, May 9.—In April merchant shipbuilding with an aggregate gross tonnage of 1,153,312 were completed in yards of the United Kingdom and entered for service, compared with 181,674 in March, according to an Admiralty statement. The total for the year ended April 30 was 1,279,337 tons. Last month's output was achieved notwithstanding a large increase in the repairing of merchantmen.

The amount of shipping completed in allied and neutral countries in the first quarter of 1918 was 544,227 tons. Yards of the United Kingdom turned out 320,280 tons in this period. The Admiralty statement also shows that the total construction in 1917 in the United Kingdom and allied and neutral countries was 2,907,786 tons, of which the United Kingdom produced 1,162,474 tons.

DOWNS 3 PLANES IN 5 MINUTES.

French Flier Accredited With at Least Thirty-four of Enemies.

PARIS, May 9.—Within five minutes on Tuesday Sub-Lieut. Nungesser, leading French aviator, brought down his thirty-third and thirty-fourth German machines and damaged another, which undoubtedly will be placed in the scrap.

On Sunday he knocked out two other enemy airplanes which have not been recorded officially.

Sub-Lieut. Nungesser, during three years of air fighting, has been wounded seventeen times and has served on fifty-two bombing expeditions.

French aviators have suffered a great loss in the death within a few days of three aces, who, between them, had accounted for more than forty-five German planes. Lieut. Chappuis, with sixteen German planes to his credit, was killed Tuesday while Sub-Lieut. Demeuldre, with thirteen victories, was killed in the region of the Somme yesterday. Capt. Miffre met death while directing an infantry attack from a very low altitude. He was struck by a machine gun bullet fired from the ground.

2 AMERICAN AIRMEN KILLED.

Victims of Airplane Accidents in England and France.

LONDON, May 9.—Second Lieutenant Dudley C. Fairbairn of Illinois was killed near Montrose on Wednesday when his airplane fell accidentally.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Edward Augustus Smith, Jr., of 1602 West North Avenue, Baltimore, Quartermaster in the navy aviation service, was killed April 30 in an airplane accident in France. The Navy Department announced to-day.

2 FLIERS KILLED, 1 HURT.

Fifteenth Fatality of Kelly Field, Texas.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., May 9.—Lieut. James D. May of New York City, was killed and Lieut. Milo H. Miller of Waterloo, Iowa, was seriously injured to-night when the airplane in which they were flying fell near this city. Both men were pinned under the machine when it fell. They were taken to the base hospital at Fort Sam Houston, where May died shortly afterward.

Lieut. May's nearest relative is Isabella Crosby, 128 Broadway, New York.

LAWTON, Okla., May 9.—Lieut. George Sherman, student officer at Post Field school for aerial observers, was killed to-day when his army airplane fell 300 feet.

The pilot of the machine was only slightly injured.

LOYD GEORGE WINS VOTE IN COMMONS

Continued from First Page.

combatants? They are not, if you begin to make distinctions.

"Are the British under fire every day making roads and railways, combatants or non-combatants? Does any one mean to tell me that they are not part of the fighting strength of the army?"

Reading from a document which he said came from Gen. Maurice's department nine days after the Premier's speech the sentence, "From the statement included it will be seen that the British army is not a fighting force, it was greater on the 1st of January, 1918, than on the 1st of January, 1917," the Premier continued:

"I have been charged with misleading the public and the public to believe that at the time of the attack the allied position on the western front was that we had a slight superiority in infantry, a superiority in cavalry and superiority in artillery. The whole of these figures were based on statements made by Gen. Maurice."

With reference to the extension of the British front, after declaring that Gen. Maurice, though at Versailles, was not in the council chamber, the Premier said:

"There was not a single yard taken over as the result of the Versailles council. Although Gen. Maurice did not say so, the real point was this: It was asked in a question by Mr. Asquith whether this portion of the line had not been taken over by the War Cabinet against the objection of Field Marshal Haig and Gen. Robertson. There was not a word of truth in it. Of course, Field Marshal Haig was not anxious to extend his line, nor was the War Cabinet. The pressure from the French Government and the French army was enormous. What was done was not done in response to pressure from the War Cabinet."

No Charge Against French.

"I am not suggesting for a moment that our French allies were acting unfairly. There was considerable loss in France last year on the subject of the length of the line held by the French army. The French losses had enormous and they had sustained the great strain of the fighting for three years."

"There was a large proportion of their manpower put into the line than in any other belligerent country. They held a front of 326 miles, we held 120 miles. But the Germans were massed much more densely against our line, and our line was much more vulnerable. The French were pressing us to extend our line in order that they might withdraw men from the army for purposes of agriculture. Their agricultural output had fallen enormously and they found it essential that they should withdraw part of their men for the purpose of cultivating their soil."

The chief of the French staff and Gen. Robertson and the Cabinet felt that it was inevitable that during the winter months there should be some extension and they acknowledged that something had to be done to meet the French demands."

The principles laid down by Gen. Robertson and accepted by the Cabinet were: (1) They accepted in principle that there must be an extension of the British line; (2) that the time and extent must be reasonable; (3) that the extension must be in line with the French line; (4) that no extension was possible until the offensive was over; (5) that the line must be taken over much depend upon the military policy of 1918 and upon the role assigned those armies.

Every one, said the Premier, would admit that those were sound proposals. The Cabinet accepted them without demur. They had never departed from those principles one iota during the negotiations. There was a meeting at Boulogne among Premier Lloyd George, Gen. Robertson, M. Painleve and Gen. Foch, which had been summoned to discuss an important question concerning the Foreign Office. M. Painleve raised the question of an extension of the front.

Mistake in Tactics.

Mr. Lloyd George was not in the least prepared for that and he told Gen. Robertson that it was a matter he must deal with, and the whole matter was dealt with by Gen. Robertson. In consequence of this subject having been raised and discussed at this conference Field Marshal Haig got the impression that some decision had been arrived at by the Cabinet for an advance in the line. Subsequently Gen. Robertson drew up the following memorandum:

"At the recent Boulogne conference between the Prime Minister, M. Painleve, Gen. Foch and myself, the question of extending our front was raised by the French representative."

Mr. Lloyd George interjected: "Having regard to the assertion that we overruled Field Marshal Haig and Gen. Robertson, I want the House to note these words."

The memorandum continued: "The reply given was that, while in principle we were ready to do whatever could be done, the matter was one that could not be decided in the absence of Field Marshal Haig or during the continuance of the present operation, and that due regard must also be had to the plan of operations for next year."

"It was suggested as best for the Field Marshal to come to an arrangement with Gen. Pelain, when this could be done. I am aware that no further formal discussion has taken place and the matter therefore cannot be regarded as decided."

"Further, I feel sure that the War Cabinet would not think of deciding such an important question without obtaining Field Marshal Haig's views, and I am replying to him in the above sense."

"That was on the 18th of October," said the Premier, "and the War Cabinet fully approved of the communication. Field Marshal Haig replied at once that he threw a new light on the Boulogne decision."

The Premier complained that although it had been repeatedly asserted that Field Marshal Haig was not consulted, Haig's reply, explaining the new light, was never mentioned.

On October 24 this question was first formally discussed with the War Cabinet. There was further pressure from the French Government, and Gen. Robertson gave his views concerning the line, and it was thought to take this conclusion was recorded in the minutes of the War Cabinet as follows:

"After hearing the Chief of Staff the following conclusion was recorded: The War Cabinet approved the suggestion of the Chief of Staff that he should reply to Field Marshal Haig in the following sense: 'The War Cabinet is of the opinion that in deciding to what extent the British troops can take over the line from the French regard must be had to the necessity for giving them a reasonable opportunity of leave for rest and training during the winter months and for the plan of operations for next year, and further, that while the present offensive continues it will not be possible to commence taking over more ground.'"

"The general military policy for next year is now under consideration and will subsequently form the subject of a conference with the allied Governments. In these circumstances the War Cabinet fears that until this policy is settled it will be premature to decide finally whether the British front can be extended by four divisions or to a greater or less extent than this. That was communicated to Field Marshal Haig and never departed from."

The Premier continued: "Afterward came the Cambrai incident and the Ital-

ian disaster, which necessitated our sending troops from France. That made it difficult for the Field Marshal to carry out the promise he had made to Gen. Pelain for a certain extension, which was not as large as the one which subsequently took place. It was then that the present French Premier came in and he is not an easy gentleman to refuse. (Laughter and cheers.) He was very insistent that the British army should take the line over. We stood by the position that that was for decision by the commander in chief. We never swayed from that position."

"A last Premier Clemenceau suggested that the House should be examined by the military representatives at Versailles, and that the Versailles Council should decide if there were any difference of opinion. The military representatives at Versailles examined the question, and the only interference, if it was interference, of the War Cabinet was that they communicated with the chief of staff, who we thought was in France at the time, and Field Marshal Haig to make the strongest possible case for the extension of the line. The only interference so far as the British Cabinet was concerned. The military representatives at Versailles suggested a compromise. The French army, French view, coupling it with the recommendation that steps ought to be taken by the French army to assist the British if attacked."

Haig and Pelain Met.

"That recommendation was to come up for discussion at the meeting of the Versailles Council on February 1. Before that meeting Field Marshal Haig and Gen. Pelain met and entered into an agreement for an extension of the front to Barleir (?) and Field Marshal Haig, who reported to the Versailles Council. No further extension of the line occurred."

"That is the whole story, and I want to perfectly plain that Field Marshal Haig's action in taking over the extension had the full approval of the British Cabinet, having regard for the pressure from the French authorities. Field Marshal Haig had no option but to make the extension. He was, in our judgment, absolutely right in course of action. He would have preferred not to have done it."

"What has been the result? There have been pernicious rumors, full of mischief, full of harm so far as the British army is concerned, that was, in spite of the remonstrances of Haig and Robertson, forced them to take a risk they ought never to have taken. Does any one suppose that Field Marshal Haig would for a moment have accepted such responsibility?"

"I am not sorry that this opportunity has been given to dispose once for all of these rumors. But the question of this discussion about the extension of the line was the importance of the unity of command, and it would never have arisen but for that. The separate army commands we have now one united army and one commander responsible for the whole and every part. I am glad of that."

Gen. Maurice Assailed.

"It was not so much a question of length of line. It was a question of the reserves massed behind them. There are two general considerations to which I must refer. I would like to say something about the effect of such action as Gen. Maurice's on the discipline of the army. It was a flagrant breach of discipline, which I regret. Mr. Asquith failed to appreciate this."

"If there was a vote of censure on the Government we could not possibly continue operations if it carried, and Mr. Asquith would then be responsible for the Government." [Cries of "No! No! No!" and "Wait and see!"]

The Premier continued his reference to Gen. Maurice's breach of discipline and asserted that he ought to have tried everything before he did such a thing. Then he said:

"I wonder if it is worth while to make another appeal to all sections of the country. These controversies are distracting, paralyzing, rendering. It is difficult enough for any Ministers to do their duty during the fighting. We had months of controversy over unity of command. This is really a sort of remnant of that controversy. National unity is threatened, the unity of the army is threatened."

"We have been occupied in hunting up records, minutes, letters, interviews, raking up what happened over a whole series of months in the War Cabinet, and this at such a moment."

Ready to Fend Foe's Blow.

"I have just returned from France, where the Generals were telling me how the Germans were silently preparing perhaps for the biggest blow of the war. These things are happening now. They are asking me for certain help. I have brought home a list of things they want done, and I wanted to attend to them at such a moment."

"I really beg for our common country, the fate of which is in the balance now and in the next few weeks. I beg and implore that there should be an end to this sniping."

Continuing, with reference to Gen. Maurice's charges, the Premier said: "It was not a question of the line, but of the Cabinet or to the Minister impugning and point out the mistake and ask him to correct it. Never a syllable was there until I sent his letter in the newspapers. I say, I have been treated very badly. Perhaps Gen. Maurice thought it was his business to approach his own Chief of Staff first."

The Premier favored a judicial inquiry because Judges were accustomed to give a short, sharp decision. Mr. Asquith had asked him what had happened since Tuesday to which he replied:

Publicity Is Offered.

"Since Tuesday it has become clear from the statements of the press which support Mr. Asquith that no decision of any kind (rebuttal) would be accepted. But those who are agitated by the former Premier, prodding him and suggesting that he ought to do this or that to embarras the Government, will go on exactly as they have been doing. The Government have therefore decided to give the facts in public and let the public judge."

The Premier said Mr. Asquith spoke as if the whole press was supporting the Government. He added:

"I will point out that in the last two or three years since I have thrown myself into the vigorous prosecution of the war, I have been drenched with 'cocoa' slop."

The "cocoa press" is the *Daily News* group of newspapers controlled by the *News*, formerly the Premier's strongest supporters.

The Premier, discussing Gen. Maurice's action, said he had never heard that Maurice had never made representations to the chief of staff on the subject.

"Yes," the Premier continued, "this is so important that a select committee must be set up to inquire into it, so important as to justify the Government in coming to the King's regulations and setting up an example of indiscipline to the whole army."

Facts Are Offered Publicity.

Both he and Mr. Bonar Law were anxious for an examination of their statements by a perfectly impartial tribunal. There were a number of confidential documents involved, and he maintained that a select committee was not the best tribunal to investigate facts when passions were aroused. The House of Commons long came to a similar decision when such questions, disputed elections were involved. Mr. Asquith had deprecated a select committee to investigate the Mesopotamian situa-

tion for reasons which the Premier considered right.

In presenting his motion Mr. Asquith said:

"I suggest to the House that in the common interest of the Government, themselves, the army, the State, the Allies and of unimpaired prosecution of the war, to set up a tribunal of inquiry which from its constitution and power would be able to give prompt, decisive and authoritative judgment."

"I hope that in regard to some of these matters there has been a genuine and honest misunderstanding."

Mr. Bonar Law suggested that he knew of no member of the House who was not either friendly or unfriendly to the Government and would not start with prejudice.

Mr. Asquith said: "I am sorry to hear that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as leader of this House and custodian and trustee of its great traditions, should think it right to even suggest to suggest that you cannot get five men who are not so steeped in party prejudice that upon a simple issue of fact they cannot be trusted to give judgment. I leave it there."

The Premier then said: "A distinguished General who for good or bad reasons has ceased to occupy an office held for two years has after he left that office challenged the statements made by two Ministers during the time he was in office. During that time he never challenged their statements, when he not merely had access to official information, but to the Ministers themselves."

Ranks Should Close Up.

He appealed to Mr. Asquith, who, he said, "has always acted in a patriotic way on every occasion," not to proceed with a question of the integrity of the country, of the dignity of the House and the relations between the civil and military powers, as well as an example to the people of the country, who are going through a very trying time. "They should close up their ranks," he concluded.

Lord Hugh Cecil, member of the Privy Council, said the Premier had made a brilliant speech that was more effective as an attack on Gen. Maurice than as a defence of the Government. He appealed to the Government not to elude to office, but when convinced that they could not command a great body of the national support, without which any Government is useless in time of war, they should resign so enable it to be seen whether a stronger Government could not be formed.

After he had spoken a few minor members made brief remarks. Mr. Asquith's motion was then put to the House, being loudly cheered.

**VICTORY OF PREMIER
SEEN AS A TRIUMPH**

Pacifists Said to Have Been His Chief Critics.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times.

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LONDON, May 9.—Less than two hours after Parliament had met this afternoon the man in the street was saying the Premier had scored a distinct triumph. His reference to the "cocoa press" printed in afternoon papers aroused the enthusiasm of supporters of the Government. This referred particularly to the morning *Daily News* and the *Evening Star*, which both are mainly owned by the Cadbury family of the great cocoa firm, which for several years has been twitted for fighting stoutly in behalf of free trade except for cocoa, upon which they enjoyed duty. Both the *Daily News* and the *Star* have been classed as leaders of the pacifist press and virtually against Lloyd George.

The *Evening News* thus describes the scene: "It is significant of the proceedings in the House of Commons this afternoon that the bench pacifist club was filled. Banned, Mr. Macdonald was not present, but he arrived well in time for what the pacifists had hoped would be the 'execution' scene."

"The Nationalists were unanimously about. Other anti-Government tacticians, small and large, and anti-Lloyd George specialists in particular, were all there for the operation and thunder of a first class crisis were missing. True, there were notable people in the galleries. The Archbishop of Canterbury had his historic place in the clock tower. There was a little chat with Carson and that extraordinary war winner, Outthwaite, made a pleasant little gift to the members by dropping in a few adjectives: 'incompetent' and 'corrupt,' into an attack on the Government which was disguised as a question. (Pringle and Outthwaite are aggressive pacifists.)"

"It seemed quite clear from the manner of the house that the 'execution' for which the pacifists had once hoped had been cancelled. For example, it was significant that none of the fighting members of Parliament had come back from France to fight for a change in the Government which presumably meant that the old gang and pacifists produced on the Westminster front to-day."

"As the time for the Asquith motion approached the Peers flocked to their gallery and the M. P.'s overflowed theirs. The Italian Ambassador was one of several well-known men in the diplomatic seats. Asquith entered with McKenna at 3:37 P. M. He did not receive a single cheer or a whisper of applause. When the Prime Minister arrived five minutes later a question was interrupted by a warm roll of cheering."

REGARDED AS FINAL.

Belief That Vote Will Bring End to Bitter Campaign.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun from the London Times.

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